

But the deal leaves unresolved the questions that provoked the crisis in December 2006. Those include Hezbollah's weapons and Lebanon's relations with Syria, which ended its 29-year military presence here in 2005 after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The divisive issue of cooperation with a United Nations tribunal to investigate Hariri's murder and 10 other killings that followed also remains to be solved. Pro-government officials accuse Syria of involvement in those assassinations.

The governing coalition hailed the new pact as a fair compromise, as did officials in Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and France.

In Washington, the Bush administration portrayed the agreement as a good step. C. David Welch, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, said that the deal could make Syria's eventual return to Lebanon impossible. He contended that the fighting had so damaged the images of Hezbollah and Syria as its backer that Lebanon's Sunnis and Christians would not welcome Syria back.

In the past, the United States has urged the government majority to take a firm stand in its conflict with the Hezbollah-led opposition.

Many Lebanese voiced relief at the news that their country's long political stalemate appeared to be over. Crowds flooded happily into the usually empty downtown on a warm afternoon, and many shops that had been closed for more than a year were reopening. The tents where opposition members had camped out for 18 months were slowly being dismantled, with people packing their gear into pickup trucks.

"We came here to celebrate; it's a dream coming true," said Chadi Ahmadih, 32, who works at Solidere, the company that rebuilt the downtown area. But he added: "This solution is like a shot of anesthesia that will at least get us through the summer. There are still differences over many issues."

The agreement was announced as Israel acknowledged that it was involved in indirect talks on a possible peace deal with Syria brokered by Turkey. That fueled speculation that the two developments were linked, though officials involved in the Doha talks said they knew of no connection.

But some analysts said Hezbollah's decision to assert itself militarily this month might have been partly based on a calculation that it could be endangered by a deal between Israel, its nemesis, and Syria, its backer.

"Hezbollah's decision to use force might have been partly motivated by a fear that Syria and Israel were going to make peace, and that it had to consolidate its power in Lebanon before that happened," said Paul Salem, the director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut.

The agreement in Doha provides for a government of 16 cabinet seats for the governing majority, 11 for the opposition and 3 to be nominated by the new president. That will allow the opposition to veto cabinet decisions, a demand the governing coalition refused to accept until now.

Heated last-minute negotiations over how to reshape Lebanon's electoral districting system which will significantly influence power-sharing after the 2009 parliamentary elections led to a compromise that divides the country into smaller districts, allowing for more equal representation of its various sects.

Several Lebanese government officials said they felt they had no choice but to accept the deal. Although their side has long had strong verbal support from the United States and Saudi Arabia, they appeared to have overplayed their hand earlier this month

when they challenged Hezbollah's private telecommunications network and its control over the Beirut airport.

Hezbollah's leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, declared those government decisions an act of war, and the group sent its fighters and their allies into the streets on May 7. Within a day, the Shiite group had seized most of west Beirut. The violence continued in northern and eastern Lebanon, leaving at least 62 people dead and threatening to push the country into an open war.

DUNCAN HUNTER NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5658) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2009, and for other purposes:

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is very simple. Essentially, it suggests a small step DOD can take to make itself more energy efficient. The amendment requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study reviewing DOD's policies concerning the sale and disposal of used motor vehicle lubricating oil. The report will include an evaluation of the feasibility of implementing policies to require closed loop recycling of used oil as a means of reducing total indirect energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions.

And to the extent that the report finds that closed loop recycling can reduce total indirect energy usage and decrease greenhouse gas emissions without significant increase in overall cost to DOD, it asks the Secretary to implement closed loop recycling of used oil when feasible.

Re-refining, or recycling, allows used oil that would otherwise be burned or dumped to be refined again and used for its originally intended purpose, just as when it was virgin oil. According to the American Petroleum Institute, re-refining used lubricating oil takes from 50 to 85 percent less energy than refining crude oil. Re-refined oil meets industry standards for use in vehicles. And according to a July 2006 report by the Department of Energy, "transforming all used oil that is currently combusted into lube oil products could save 63 million gallons of fuel oil equivalent per year."

Through closed loop recycling, DOD would buy re-refined oil for use in its vehicles, sell their used oil back to re-refiners to be recycled, and then continue the cycle.

I should also note that nothing in this amendment changes or affects the Solid Waste Disposal Act or any other Federal or State environmental law, or the obligation of any person to comply with that law.

This amendment is a win-win. By recycling used motor oil, DOD decreases its reliance on our adversaries to keep its vehicles running. DOD conserves energy by extending the life of a nonrenewable resource. And greenhouse gas emissions are decreased.

DOD already uses some re-refined oil and it even has a closed loop re-refined oil program.

Expanding these programs is one small way the military can reduce its overall reliance on foreign oil. As the largest single consumer of energy in the United States, it is a step that I believe DOD should consider taking.

IN HONOR OF KEN LIVINGSTONE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ken Livingstone, former Mayor of London, and in recognition of his outstanding leadership, vision and advocacy on behalf of the many diverse communities that make up London's social fabric.

Ken Livingstone carries with him a rich history of public service and advocacy in England. Mayor Livingstone was born in Lambeth, London, England, in 1945. He began his political career in 1973 when he became a Labour member of the Greater London Council (GLC). While serving as leader of the GLC from 1981 to 1986, Mr. Livingstone fought against discrimination, and in 1985, sat beside Jesse Jackson at an Anti-Apartheid rally. In 1987, following his career as leader of the GLC, Mr. Livingstone served as the Labour Member of Parliament for Brent East for 14 years.

In 2000, Mr. Livingstone was elected as the Mayor of London, the first person to hold this office and he would serve in that position until May 2008. As the first Mayor of London, a truly international city that attracts people from all over the world, he continued his legacy of challenging all forms of discrimination and of fostering multiculturalism. He enthusiastically celebrated London's multiculturalism by hosting several city wide events, such as a Hanukkah ceremony at City Hall. He also honored the contributions of England's Irish community by hosting a Saint Patrick's Day festival and celebrated the end of Ramadan with London's Muslim community by hosting the "Eid in Trafalgar" event.

During the June 2005 London bombings, he demonstrated his leadership by initiating several campaigns dedicated to fostering intercultural understanding and united London's unique and diverse social fabric. Mr. Livingstone is also the author of two books, *If Voting Changed Anything They'd Abolish It* and *Livingstone's Labour*.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of former Mayor Livingstone as a champion of human and civil rights and in recognition of his leadership and advocacy on behalf of London's diverse communities.

HONORING PARKER CHRISTIAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Parker Christian of Gladstone, Missouri. Parker is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1354, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.